

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13 EUR-25 RSR-01 /130 W

----- 046292

P R 091501Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3665

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

JH

SRA/AMEMBASSY JIDDA 5649

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT BAGHDAD

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DEPT PASS CAIRO AND SANAA

EO 11652: N/A DECON 8/9/74.

TAGS: PINS PFOR XF GR

SUBJ: FEDAYEEN DISOWN ATHENS TERRORISTS, CHARGE US-ISRAELI "PLOT"

REF: BEIRUT 9383

SUMMARY: COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AUG 7 BY SO-CALLED "ABU YUSUF SEVENTH SUICIDE SQUAD" (REFTEL) CLAIMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR LATEST ATHENS AIRPORT ATTACK IS CREATING CONSIDERABLE CONSTERNATION IN LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN CIRCLES HERE. FEDAYEEN APPEAR ANXIOUS SHIFT BLAME TO ISRAEL AND USG.

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END SUMMARY.

1. PLO (WAFA) DAILY BULLETIN REPORTED AUG 8 THAT PLO EX COMM, WHICH IT SAID HAS BEEN MEETING IN DAMASCUS TO STUDY "IMPLICATIONS" OF RECENT WAVE OF TERROR OPERATIONS ATTRIBUTED TO FEDAYEEN, WILL SHORTLY ISSUE STATEMENT ASSERTING ABU YUSUF GROUP IS "ILLUSIONARY, FAKE AND FABRICATED ENTITY WHICH DOES NOT EXIST AT ALL" AND STRESSING ITS ACTIONS ARE CONDEMNED BY AND UNRELATED TO FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT. SIMILAR STATEMENT WAS ISSUED AUG 8 BY FATAH SPOKESMAN (FBIS MO81926), WHO CHARGED ATHENS OPERATION WAS PART OF "PLOT" TO DEFAME ABU YUSUF'S MEMORY, DISCREDIT FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT AND JUSTIFY NEW "TERRORISM AGAINST OUR PEOPLE". PLO WEEKLY PALESTINE REVOLUTION (AUG 8) CARRIED LEAD EDITORIAL REITERATING ABOVE THEMES AND CHARGING ISRAELI AND US INTELLIGENCE WITH MASTERMINDING NOT ONLY ATHENS ATTACK, BUT ALSO RECENT JAPAN AIRLINES HIJACKING AND JUL 19 ATTEMPT AGAINST EL AL OFFICE IN ATHENS.

2. RIGHT-WING BEIRUT DAILY AL JARIDA REPORTS GOL OFFICIALS DEEPLY CONCERNED RE ANNOUNCEMENT BY ABU YUSUF GROUP AND THAT LEBANESE INTERIOR MINISTRY MADE IMMEDIATE CONTACT WITH FEDAYEEN LEADERSHIP, WHO DENIED SUCH ORGANIZATION EXISTS. THERE MUCH SPECULATION IN LOCAL PRESS RE LIKELIHOOD OF NEW IDF ATTACK, WITH PRO-FEDAYEEN AL MUHARRIR QUOTING "DIPLOMATIC SOURCES" TO EFFECT THAT SUCH ATTACK IS IMMINENT AND REPEATING ALLEGATION RE ISRAELI-US "PLOT". THESE NOTIONS, TOGETHER WITH CAIRO VOP CANARD RE AMB MEYER (STATE 156964), LIKELY TO RECEIVE WIDE CIRCULATION HERE IN DAYS AHEAD, NOTWITHSTANDING OUR BEST EFFORTS TO SHOOT THEM DOWN. HOWEVER, TO BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE, LEFTIST AL YOM IS ONLY PAPER. FAR TO HAVE REFERRED MEYER BY NAME, AND THEN ONLY IN BRIEF REFERENCE ON PAGE 6 IN CONNECTION WITH APR 10 RAID. FEDAYEEN, SEEM BENT ONCE MORE ON TRYING SHIFT BLAME FOR THEIR EMBARRASMENTS TO THEIR FAVORITE DEVILS, BUT WE CANNOT EXPLAIN WHY CAIRO VOICE OF PALESTINE CHOSE TO GIVE BRIEF REFERENCE TO MEYER SUCH BIG PLAY. BUFFUM

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO OR SANAA.

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